

**Kenmore PTA Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2014**

Official Meeting started at 7:04 p.m.

Review and Approve Meeting Minutes from January 14, 2014 – Motion made to approve; all in favor to approve

Principal's Report – Dr Word

- Currently Kenmore is in the process of examining block scheduling for the upcoming 6th grade class. Kenmore teachers and administrators have formed a committee to meet weekly (starting Feb 14) to review the 3 different models that a consultant developed; to talk through the pros and cons of each; frame the communication and how it will work and finally to provide feedback. Dr Word's requirement to the consultant was the art elective will remain the same and that no changes to art be made. A decision will be made by end of March and communicated out before the spring break. If they do decided to go with the block schedule for 6th grade, Kenmore will offer information nights to parents to understand the model and how it all works. This is something Kenmore has been considering for the last 2-yrs. Each middle school has the support of the the Superintendent should they move forward. Dr Word's rational for starting with 6th grade is its all new to them anyway and the transition will be easier that way. Dr Word explained a few benefits of block scheduling 1) is currently classes are 42 minutes long and that goes quick, with block scheduling the classes could be as long as 90-minutes depending on the model selected.; 2) is that it would offer less movement throughout the day. Training will be offered to teachers on the block scheduling instruction. HILT is already in block scheduling so for next year, it will probably look very similar.
- Dr Word address the pepper spray incident that occurred in school on Monday, February 10th. A 7th grade girl brought the pepper spray to school and took it out of her purse while in the girls locker room in the gym to show a friend. The friend took the pepper spray and sprayed it in the locker room – the pepper spray was not directed at anyone. The fire department was called and they were able to clear the air and the custodian staff wiped everything down. Students in the gym were escorted to the theatre where they stayed for the the class. All morning PE and Health classes were to told to report to the theater as that is where their class would be help PE and Health resumed for 4th period. A police report was filed and the school resource offer was immediately involved.
- Course cards went home to partners on Tuesday, February 11th. They are due Friday, February 21st
- Kenmore is expecting to have 3 6th grade classes for the 2014-2015 school year.
- APS and Kenmore is going through the AdvanceED accreditation process and is looking for parents (2) to participate in a focus group meeting being held Feb 24.

Activities for School Year:

Hispanic Committee – Janeth Valenzuela

On January 25 “Security for Teenage Safety” program was held and it was well received and attended by over 40 people. Next program will be February 28th with a movie “Bullying” this movie is in English and flyer will go home in backpack mail for additional information. On March 29th a meeting will be held at Kenmore organized by the Hispanic Committee to discuss transportation concerns – there are still many children who have not been granted a school bus and many parents are looking to get this changed. Dr Emma Viioland-Sanchez has been invited to attend the meeting.

CCPTA – Chris Ditta

The last meeting held February 10th. Abby Raphael attended meeting to discuss budget process and budget tool. There were two presentations at the meeting 1) Arlington Black Parents Association. The ABPA is made up of parents and teachers of school-aged children to promote quality education for children of african ancestry. Info on meetings are announced in the Kenmore Daily announcement. And 2) presentation was on Special Education PTA. There are lots of opportunities to get involved. Jane Winant is Kenmore's SEPTA's representative. To get involved, go to their website at www.arlingtonssepta.org/ CCPTA is encouraging families to sign up for HeathCare.gov. Schools are encouraged to communicate out to parents as well.

Newsletter – Rachel Naab

Next issue is underway; scheduled date for release is mid-March. Look for information on Kenmore's biggest fundraising event – Silent Auction March 28th

8th Grade Activities – Aquila Stewart

Planning is underway for the 8th grade year-end boat cruise. A payment plan will be set up for parents to payments in March for the boat cruise (rather than all the money at once). Other fundraiser events such as hot chocolate sale and car wash.

Fundraising

Silent Auction – Nina Austin

Scheduled for March 28th at Kenmore. This year's theme is “Reaching for the Stars”. Currently working on gather vendor donations and parent donations to be auctioned off. Forms for a parent donation and vendor donations was in the Feb 11th Kenmore Daily Announcement. If you have questions or would like to volunteer for the auction please contact Nina Austin at nwaustin@verizon.net Lots of volunteers are need for the day of the event. Additional information on auction items and event schedule will be in the March Newsletter.

Treasurer's Report – Cathy Constantine

- Checking and Savings accounts are reconciled
- Bank has switched to new bank
- Paid one grant this month

Meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.